

through bright, inquisitive eyes. At Virginia Tech, in Richmond, and throughout the Commonwealth, grief has given life to action, spurring positive steps to help and to heal. Campus security has been strengthened and sentinel systems to identify and confront potentially violent students have been made more sensitive, more vigilant. We do these things for them, and for the safety of the students who follow in their footsteps. And we work in their memory to mark our calendars from this

day forward with memorials to youthful accomplishment and growth, not tragedy.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 16, 2008*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Tuesday, April 15,

I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 186, 187 and 188 due to an official congressional delegation to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote 186 (Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5719), “yea” on rollcall vote 187 (H. Res. 1102—Rule providing for H.R. 5719—Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act of 2008) and “yea” on rollcall vote 188 (H.R. 5036—Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008).